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A PLAIN and TRUE RELATION

Of a Very

Extraordinary CURE

OF

Mariane Maillard.

In a LETTER to a Friend.

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A PLAIN and TRUE RELATION Of a very Extraordinary Cure OF Mariane Maillard.

In a Letter to a Friend.

Dear Sir,

I *Received yours of the* 20th *Inſtant, in which you deſire to be Inform'd of the Truth of a Story, which you ſay, you have ſeen in a ſmall Printed Paper,*

called, The Happy Virgin, *of a* French *Girl lately Cured after an extraordinary manner in a moment of time of an old inveterate Lameneſs, which hath been always thought Incurable by any Art of Man; as ſhe was Reading the Story of our Saviours Healing and Pardoning of the Paralitic; being therefore always ready to ſerve you in what I may, and being my ſelf alſo much affected with the thing, I have enquired fully into the Matter, and do not in the leaſt doubt of its Truth and Certainty; though I am very much concern'd and ſcandalized at that Relation, which you have ſeen in that Printed Paper, becauſe it is not only untrue in many things, and particularly in what it ſays of an unhappy Fall from a Table, which bruiſed and broke the Childs Hip aud other Bones; which are nothing ſo, but do very much diſparage the Story it ſelf in the Account it pretends to give of it; and therefore having Inform'd my ſelf ſufficiently (as I think) about it, I ſhall give you a Plain and True Relation of the matter of Fact, without any Remarks, or Obſervations of my own, for the thing being undoubtedly true, needs nothing to ſet it off, or recommend it to the World, there being no Parties of Men that I know of that endeavour to ſerve themſelves by it any further than to be ſatisfied of its Truth, and give Glory to God for the things that he hath done; and in-*

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deed you are your ſelf too great a Judg of ſuch watters, for me to Attempt any thing more than the Relation it ſelf, which in Obedience to your Commands, for ſuch all your Requeſts are with me, I here withal ſend you, and give you free leave to impart it to as many of your Friends as you think fit.

M*Ariane Maillard*, the Perſon of whom you deſire an Acconnt, is the Daughter of one Mr. *John Maillard* a *French* Proteſtant, of the Town of *Cognar*, in *Saintonge*, where he Lived in good repute, being a Sword-Cutler by Trade, and a very Honeſt Man, and had four Children, of which this *Mariane* was the Eldeſt, who when ſhe was Six Months Old, became Lame by an accidental Fall out of her Fathers Arms, who being very fond of her, would be frequently playing with her, toſſing her up, and catching her again, till at laſt he very unhapyily let her fall to the Ground, where ſhe received, as it appear'd afterwards, a very conſiderable hurt in her left ſide; which he not then apprehending any danger from, thinking that it might be only a little Bruiſe that would be ſoon well again; and

being unwilling to tell his Wife of it, for fear of frighting, or troubling of her, took no further care about it, till at laſt perceiving that her Hip was out, by the wryneſs of the Leg and Foot, and very diſtorted motion when the Child began to go, the Heel turning almoſt quite forward, he became extreamly concern'd at it, and deſir'd the help of ſeveral Surgeons, who after they had ſeen it, declar'd it to be incurable, as did alſo divers other Surgeons, both in *Switzerland* and *London*; and particularly Mr. *Dubatt*, a very Eminent Surgeon in *Green-Street* near *Leiſter-Fields*, to whom it was ſhewn by her Parents afterwards, and that the Cure of it could not be attempted without endangering the Life of the Child, and expoſing it to the moſt exquiſite Pain and Torture, which the Parents by no means conſenting to, choſe rather to ſubmit to the Will of God, than try ſo cruel and deſperate an Experiment: And by this means the Child continued Lame, growing ſtill more and more crooked and deformed as it grew up, being always ready to fall as ſhe went along; and thus ſhe continued till ſhe was 6 or 7 years old, when her Father was forc'd to fly out of *France*, upon the Dragooning part

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of the *French* Perſecution, chuſing rather to do ſo than change his Religion; and ſo taking his Wife and Four Children with him, of which this was the Eldeſt, he fled firſt into *Switzerland*, traveling only by Night, enduring great hardſhips, and eſcaping many dangers; where having ſtaid ſome time, he came from thence through *Germany* into *Holland*; and at laſt came over into *England* about the time of the late Revolution; but being extream poor, and not able to maintain his Wife and Children, he obtain'd to be made a Serjeant in one of the *French* Regiments that went over into *Ireland*, under the Command of Capt. *De Laſheroſt*, in Col. *Corbon*'s Regiment, where he ſerved the Regiment Two Years, but the Pay not anſwering his Expectation and Neceſſities, he was forc'd to quit that Imployment, and return to his Trade, and went over every year with the Army into *Flanders*, there to mend and ſell Swords. His Wife alſo being an Induſtrious and Skillful Woman, went amongſt the *French* Refugees, to make the Beds, and clean the Rooms of thoſe that were ſick, by which means ſhe got a ſmall ſubſiſtence for her ſelf and Children, being paid an half penny for each Room. And in this ſort

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of Service ſhe continued for ſome time, taking this Girl, for the moſt part, along with her, who us'd, as far as ſhe was able, to aſſiſt her Mother, and ſoon became very ſerviceable to her, till one day as ſhe was attending thus upon one Madam *Laulan*, who fled hither from the *French* Perſecution, and formerly, for about 12 or 13 years together had been a Domeſtick of Marſhal *Turene*, during his being a Proteſtant, waiting upon his Lady (a Perſon of Eminent Piety, Charity and Wiſdom, and a great Patroneſs of all of the Reform'd Religion in *France* that needed her Countenance and Aſſiſtance) in the Quality of her Woman, who perceiving the Girl very towardly, and willing to do any thing ſhe could for her Mother, was ſo pleas'd with her, (being then very ill her ſelf, and having a Son alſo ſick at the ſame time, who is ſince dead) that ſhe took her to look to them both, and to go about upon Errands as ſhe had occaſion, inſtead of a Nurſe, or other Servant, which ſhe was not able to maintain; And with her ſhe lived Three Years, doing all things with greater care and hardineſs than could have been expected from her Years and Condition, being then but a little a-

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bove nine years old, and withal ſo much afflicted with extream Pains by reaſon of her Lameneſs, that ſhe rather ſeem'd to need one to attend upon her, than to be put to attend upon an other; and indeed if meer poverty had not forced her to it, ſhe might well have been excuſed from that ſort of Service; but her Parents not being able to maintain her better, were glad of the opportunity to diſpoſe of her ſo well, knowing Madam *Lanlan* to be a very pious and good tempered Woman, and indeed the Girl was ſo pleaſed with her New Service, and took ſuch a liking to her Miſtreſs, that ſhe ſeem'd well contented with her Condition, and bore her Affliction with the greateſt patience (tho ſhe often felt great pain in her Hip and Leg on that ſide on which ſhe was Lame, eſpecially in Foggy Miſty Weather.)

The only thing that moſt ſenſibly Afflicted her, was the ſcoffing perſecution which ſhe daily met with from the Boys in the Streets; who ſeeing her ſtrange diſtorted manner of goiug (which was indeed very unuſual) were wont to follow her, and pull her with great Rudeneſs, calling her *Crooked Monſter*, &c. of which ſhe frequently complain'd to her Mrs. who being a very good Chriſtian, gave

her ſtill the beſt Advice and Comfort that ſhe could, telling her, that there was no help for her. and therefore ſhe muſt bear it with patience; which indeed ſhe did for a long time.

But on *Sunday*, the 26th of *November*, laſt paſt, as ſhe return'd home in the Evening from Church, ſhe was much concern'd to ſee a Man, as ſhe judged, about Forty years of Age, joyn with the Boys in abuſing and tormenting of her, telling her Miſtreſs when ſhe came home, with many Tears, that ſhe thought he might have been better Imployed than to Laugh at her, who had already but too much Sorrow and Affliction from her Condition; her Miſtreſs endeavoured to Comfort her again, as ſhe uſed to do, and told her, That if ſhe would thus trouble her ſelf every time ſhe was ſo uſed, ſhe would have enough to do, and never want for Vexation, ſince her Lameneſs was Incurable, and would remain ſo all her Life long, and that therefore ſhe muſt reſolve to be Patient, and to Commit her Cauſe to God, uſing ſeveral other Arguments with her to the ſame purpoſe, to pacify her Mind, and allay her Trouble, and the more to put theſe thoughts out of her head, having eaten a little Supper, ſhe bid her take her Bible

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and Read a Chapter to her, as ſhe uſed to do every day in the *New Teſtament*. The place that ſhe was then to Read, in the courſe of her daily Reading, was the 2d of St. *Mark*; but opening the Bible, ſhe hapned to meet with that place of St. *Matt.* where the *Evangeliſt* ſpeaks of St. *Peter's* Mother, who lay ſick of a Fever, and was by our Saviour's touching of her immediately cur'd.

Her Mrs. liking that place, becauſe it had ſome relation to her preſent diſtemper, which was an intermitting Fever, and return'd every day, and continu'd for a long time, bid her read that out before ſhe turn'd to her own Chapt. Which ſhe did; and when ſhe had done they had ſome diſcourſe upon it, the Mrs. ſaying, *Oh how happy ſhould I be if I were thus deliver'd from my Fever: And I* (adding the maid) *if I were Cur'd of my Lameneſs.* After this ſhe turn'd to her own Chapter, which hepned to be the 2d of St. *Mark*; where upon reading the Story of the man that was ſick of the *Palſie*, whoſe Faith our Saviour there commends; amongſt the reſt that aſſiſted in letting him down thro' the Roof into his preſence, and whom he not only cures, but grants beſides the forgiveneſs of his ſins too: She made a ſtop, and began to exclaim againſt the *Scribes*, not only for perſiſting in their incredulity, but for accuſing our Savi-

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ouralſo of Blaſphemy, ſaying to her *Mrs. Oh how wicked were theſe unbelieving* Scribes *to ſpeak ſo of our Saviour, when he had done ſo many Miracles; I am ſure I ſhould have done quite otherwiſe; and if I ſhould hear of ſuch a thing I ſhould immediately run to him and believe.* And whilſt ſhe was thus ſpeaking, ſhe had her leg ſtretch'd out towards her *Mrs.* who bid her pull it back, telling her it was not decent to put it ſo near her; to whom the maid reply'd, *Mrs. I did not complain much to day becauſe you forbad me, but I do aſſure you I have felt a great deal of pain, as I uſe to do in all miſty weather.* And at the ſame time as they were thus talking together, they heard ſuddenly a great ſnap, which they both perceived very plain, the *Mrs.* thinking it had been ſomthing iu the fire that made that noiſe; but the maid riſing up very haſtily, crys out, *Mrs. Did you hear the noiſe? It was my Hip-bone that is certainly reſtored to its place;* and throwing her ſelf upon her mrs. with ſuch tranſports of Joy, as if she had been beſide her ſelf; ſhe embrac'd her knees about ſo faſt, that she could not get her off, ſaying, *my dear miſtriſs, I am well, my pain is all gone, and I hear ſomething that ſays, thou art cured; my joy is ſo great that I cannot tell where I am, nor what I do: pray feel your ſelf and ſee here the hollow place is filled up, and the ſwelling quite gone; Oh God be thanked; pray let me go and ſhew it the Laudlord and Landlady, and the Maid below* Stairs;

Stairs; and ſo walkt ſeveral turns about the Room without any pain at all, her foot being now ſtrait as the other. And thus she has continu'd ever ſince, only that leg being a little shorter than the other (perhaps through the long continuance out of its place which hindred its due growth, and the neceſſary extenſion of the Nerves and Sinews; She therefore halts a little ſtill, but has nothing at all of that monſtrous diſtorted lameneſs which she had before, and which all that knew her then, and have ſeen her now, cannot but extreamly wonder at, and praiſe God for.

Her Mrs. ſeeing her in theſe tranſports of joy, was afraid at firſt that she was or would be quite beſide her ſelf; but conſidering the matter well, and ſeeing with her own Eyes the wonderful change that was made in her condition, the hollow place which she had often, and but that very day ſeen and felt, perfectly fill'd up, the bone in its proper place, and her leg and foot now ſtrait and right as it should be; She bid her not think of going down ſtairs that night, but rather fall upon her *knees*, and give God his due praiſe, who had done ſo much for her, and who in a minutes time had cur'd a pain and lameneſs that had been of 12 years continuance, which no Art of man could do; and ſo they accordingly did, it being then late, went both to bed, where the

poor Girl could hardly reſt or ſleep for Joy. The next morning she shew'd it to as many of her acquaintance as she could meet with, who could not but wonder at ſo ſtrange and unlook'd for a thing. Her Parents ſavv it vvith tears of Joy, and have, as they ought, ſent Bills into the Churches, that God might be the more glorified, and his praiſes be ſet forth the better by vvhole Congregations.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a plain, but very true and exact Account of this Matter, in compliance with your earneſt and well intended enquiry after it, to which I might indeed add, for the full Confirmation of it, a great number of Certificates and Affidavits (having ſome by me) from many hundreds of Perſons that have ſeen and known this Girl both before and ſince her Cure, and are able to give a full and ſatisfactory Account of her, to all that ſhall be deſirous more particularly to be Inform'd about her; but to what purpoſe ſhould I give my ſelf and you that Trouble, ſince the ſame enquiry into the Truth of thoſe Certificates and Affidavits, which is neceſſary for the confirmatiod of them, would be ſufficient to ſatisfy any body of the Truth of the thing; let it ſuffice therefore to ſhew you that ſhe was Perſonally known to Mr. *Du Batt*, whom I men-

I mention'd before; to the Lady *Sunderland*, and her Family, whether ſhe often reſorted, and where ſhe was always well accepted, and receiv'd many Charitable Kindneſſes, both in Meat and Mony, and who will all Teſtify to the Truth of her Lameneſs; as will alſo moſt of Mr. *Hampden*'s Family, whither ſhe alſo went very frequently to ſell ſome little things for her Mrs. which they uſed in Charity and Compaſſion to Buy of her; to theſe I might add above 100 perſons more of this Nation, beſides an innumerable company of her owu, who all knew and pittied her ſad condition, and who now rejoyce and wonder to ſee her ſo perfectly Cur'd in ſo ſhort a time. One thing indeed will be neceſſary for me to give you a little account concernidg the place of her abode, and where ſhe may be found, that ſo all doubting perſons may be fully ſatisfied in the Truth of this matter that are any ways deſirous to be inform'd of it, and when this ſtrange and amazing Cure was Wrought, ſhe liv'd with her Mrs. who Lodg'd at an *Apothecary*'s Houſe whoſe Name is *Tent*, in an Ally at the *Eaſt* end of S. *James*'s Church, that goes up from *Germain-Street* into *Pickadilly*; but *Tent* being behind hand with his Rent, went away privately with his Goods on *Sunday* Night, the 17th inſtant

inſtant, which the Landlord hearing of, came the next day to the Houſe, and finding Mrs. *Laulan* in it, Seiz'd her Goods, ſuppoſing them to be *Tents*, and turns her and the Girl out of doors; upon vvhich they were forc'd to part, till Mrs. *Laulan* can get her Goods again. In the mean time ſhe lodges among ſome of her acquaintance, but as yet at no certain place. The Girl is now vvith her Father, at the corner of *Newport-Ally* near *Soho*, and may be ſeen and ſpoken vvith at any time by any that deſire it. Her Father is a Senſible Good Man, and no vvays exalted above vvhat is fitting for a Good Chriſtian upon ſuch an Extraordinary Occaſion, being more Glad and Thankful in the Mercy, than any ways officiouſly concern'd to have any body believe it; *which does indeed ſeem to me to Give no little Credit to the truth of the ſtory it ſelf.*

I ſhall now conclude, Sir, in the *words* of the *Parents* of the man that vvas born blind, vvho told the inquiſitive and unbelieving *Phariſee*, *That he was their Son, and was born blind, but they could not tell how he came to ſee.* The ſame, in a manner, may hundreds ſay about this Child, *That they knew her to be lame, and now ſee her cur'd, but how ſhe came to be ſo they know not, and can believe it to be no other than a very extraordinary and amazing thing.* Which is all at preſent from,

Sir, Your humble ſervant, E. H.